To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 10, 2023 City Council meeting on item 2023.MM6.1, Supporting Small Businesses: Calling on the Federal Government to Forgive a Portion of the Canada Emergency Business Account Loans - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Hi there,

As a small business, we are **still** feeling the effects of the pandemic, inflation and the economic downturn. We have not bounced back to 2019/pre-pandemic sales - and I know that I'm speaking on behalf of MANY small businesses in our neighbourhood of West Queen West - and Toronto, more generally. Not only are our sales not what they used to be, we now have the huge added stress and burden of being in significant debt - due to the pandemic and the extremely long mandated closures. Having the loan repayment deadline is absolutely crucial at this time. Ideally the loans could even be forgiven - or halved - but failing that, an extension is all but crucial.

It is my sincerest hope that the city will officially request the federal government to extend the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan repayment deadline.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I would be very happy to meet in person to discuss this further, if so desired.

Best regards and with thanks, Daniel Torjman

Founder/Creative Director 18waits.com